

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of October 10, 2005**

1. Community Center Inspections: Over the next week, several important inspections will be taking place in and around the Takoma Park Community Center. An inspection by the Fire Marshal's office is scheduled for Saturday, October 15. An inspection by the County building inspector will be scheduled when we pass the fire inspection. The Community Center cannot be opened to the public until the construction passes all necessary inspections and a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) is obtained. It is not known at this time if the C of O will be obtained before the planned October 22, date of the Grand Opening of the building. Please check the City's Web page (www.cityoftakomapark.org) for up-to-date information as it comes available.

(Community & Government Liaison)

2. Media Event at Piney Branch Elementary School: City Council is reminded that they are invited on Monday, October 17th, to attend a media event at Piney Branch Elementary School beginning at 11:00am. Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, will be showcasing Piney Branch Elementary School's math program. For more information, please call the school at 301-891-8000.

(Executive Assistant)

3. Enterprise Zone (Wards 2, 3, and 6): A series of focus groups are planned for next week to provide business and property owners in the Long Branch / Takoma Park Enterprise Zone with an opportunity to discuss the economic and community development issues along the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue corridor. The information gathered during this process will be used to develop a marketing plan for the Enterprise Zone, identify broader development needs of the area, and gather information for future grant applications. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. Business Financial Incentives Fair (Wards 2, 3, and 6): The HCD Department is hosting a Financial Incentives Fair for businesses located in the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue corridors on Tuesday, November 1, at the Takoma Park Recreation Center from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. The event is targeted to those business and property owners located within the Long Branch Takoma Park Enterprise Zone. Information on the benefits available through the Enterprise Zone program and other economic development incentives will be provided to participants. For more details, please contact David Suls, Associate Planner, at 301.891.7219 or by email at dsuls@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Wards 5 and 6): Mario Cristaldo met with a number of tenants residing at 1001, 1003 and 1005 University Blvd. E last weekend to discuss a notice that they had received informing them that the property is for sale. The current owner has a third party contract for \$1,600,000. The tenants will be reviewing all their options, but at this time it appears that they are not interested in purchase of the property on their own. A tenant meeting will be set up within the next week with Montgomery County staff to discuss their possible interest in the property. Tenants residing at 8324 Eastridge Avenue have received a notice from their landlord that this six unit rental facility is for sale and that there is a third party contract for \$800,000. Letters have been sent to the tenants informing them of their right to purchase. The County was also notified of the sale. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **Accreditation:** The Police Department will be visited by assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), October 22 - 26, inspecting all aspects of police operations and evaluating the Department's compliance with hundreds of official standards. The assessors will hold a public meeting to receive comments about the Department's services and performance on Sunday, October 23, at 3:00 p.m. in the Auditorium (Council Chambers) in the Municipal Building. Statements, no longer than 10 minutes per person, will be heard until all interested persons have had an opportunity to speak. They also will be available to receive direct telephone calls from citizens on Monday, October 24, 2005, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. (only) at 301/891-7137. *(Police)*

7. **New Hires:** A dispatcher and an eighth crossing guard were hired this week, with starting dates of October 24. *(Police)*

8. **Crime Report (Wards 2, 3, & 6):** Detectives served a search and arrest warrant successfully this week related to a stalking and assault case. Investigators are also working a crime pattern of robberies in the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. Four citizen and 3 commercial establishments have been robbed with similar suspect and vehicle descriptions. Detectives have identified three possible suspects related to a series of 16 daytime burglaries in the X9 and V3 beats. Warrants are pending. *(Police)*